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CONNECTICUT BOOKLET No. 5

# HISTORIC HOUSES *of* CONNECTICUT

*Open to the Public*

By H. F. RANDOLPH MASON

*Introduction by*

DR. ROBERT J. CRAIG

*President, The Connecticut League of Historical Societies, Inc.*



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*The Connecticut League of Historical Societies, Inc.*



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THE PEQUOT PRESS, INC.

*Stonington, Connecticut*

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# Acknowledgment

The publication of *Historic Houses of Connecticut* was made through the complete cooperation of the officers of the organizations or others closely associated with the ownership or maintenance of these splendid buildings, which enable everyone to enjoy their interesting architectural features and their many beautiful and rare furnishings.

The basic facts concerning each of these houses, in some cases the complete text, together with the pictures, have been supplied and approved by these representatives and grateful acknowledgment of their assistance is hereby expressed. The sponsorship of the Connecticut League of Historical Societies has been invaluable in encouraging the compilation of the material and in the production of the book. The splendid introduction by Dr. Robert J. Craig, president of the League, well demonstrates the state-wide interest which this organization has in the preservation and care of our historic heritage.

In the case of almost any historical work, there are always a few who question the accuracy of statements and dates. In some instances it is impossible to pin point these. It is believed, however, that the information supplied is as nearly correct as can be obtained and that in the matter of dates for the construction of these houses they are relatively correct as to the general period in which they were erected.

At the time of the publication of this book, there are at least a half dozen historic homes which have been preserved and which are in various stages of restoration, but they have not been included, as the exact dates when they will be open to the public and the material to be on display have not been fully determined.

It should be noted that the days and hours when the houses listed are open to the public are subject to change, due to local conditions.

H. F. RANDOLPH MASON

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# Introduction

BY DR. ROBERT J. CRAIG

*President, Connecticut League of Historical Societies, Inc.*

The history of our people in early times is written in their struggle for a living, the clearing of primeval forests to plant their crops among the stumps, the rude shelters that first housed them, the sacrifice to gather a church and build a school then find and support pastor and teacher. These things were essentials to our Puritan ancestors, and the threat of the displaced savage hung over them constantly.

Each generation saw the forest pushed back. New Towns were established. The young couples moved on. Before Connecticut was filled, some had filtered into western Massachusetts and Vermont. After the Revolution they flooded into western New York, then Ohio, and the West.

William Cooper in his *A Settlement in the Wilderness*, said, "The Yankees are the poorest sort of people. They listen respectfully when you tell them how to do things—and then do it their own way which is probably better."

To get back to the pioneer stock that stayed home. They prospered and built substantial homes. Over the years fire, neglect, and increased land values have caused a great many to disappear. Many were saved by antiquarians.

In many communities, historical societies were formed and when the opportunity presented itself, acquired an old house, restored it, and set out to depict the life of earlier times in their community.

This book illustrates some fifty houses from several periods, all preserved as historic house museums.

The Pequot Press is to be congratulated on presenting this book. It also lists other Historic Museums in the state. This is a much needed work, not only for those of us in the Connecticut League of Historical Societies, but the students of history, antiquarians, and the strangers within our gate. It is an excellent guide for the visitors from far and near. It presents a picture of life, architecture, furniture, folk art, decoration, tools, dress, utensils, etc.

This was Connecticut through the ages, from the Indian wigwam to the modern split-level ranch house. It is here for your enjoyment and enlightenment.

Appreciating the need, the League Board of Directors is sponsoring this volume. If we do not tell this portion of the State's history—who will?

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PHOTO BY CHAMBERLAIN

### No. 1 Putnam Cottage (Pre-1729), Greenwich

A scene of considerable activity during the colonial days when Timothy Knapp and others of his family played host to many a famous personage, in their travels by horseback or stagecoach between New York and Boston, the once famous Knapp Tavern now stands as a more peaceful abode, the charming headquarters of Putnam Hill Chapter, D. A. R. The old house was built between 1692, when Timothy Knapp acquired the land, and 1729, when he deeded one-half of it to his son, Israel Knapp.

Although a stone ell has been added, the house probably appears today about as it did in 1779, when General Israel Putnam was a guest, but was forced to hurry away when he learned that

the British General Tryon was approaching along the Post Road. Putnam, with a small detachment of troops, offered some resistance, but was forced to flee before vastly superior numbers. During its early days, one of the first Masonic lodges in the country held its meetings here.

Col. Herschel Adams purchased the house in 1901, and with several of his fellow townsmen organized the Putnam House Association, and a little later it was turned over to the D. A. R. chapter. Included among many beautiful and rare furnishings is a large portrait of General Putnam, the work of the noted Boston painter, Darius Cobb, who was commissioned to do the work by Col. Adams.

*Putnam Hill Chapter, D.A.R., 243 East Putnam Avenue (Rt. 1), Greenwich; phone TO 9-8034; open the year around, Monday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, 10-5; contributions accepted.*





## No. 2 Bush-Holley House, Cos Cob

Tradition has it that the Bush-Holley House may have been built by a Dutch trader in 1685, or perhaps by the town's first parson, Eliphalet Jones. Justus Bush, wealthy mill and ship owner, acquired it in 1738, passed it to his son, David, in 1760, who left it to his sons Justus Luke and Dr. Ralph Isaacs Bush.

Justus Bush installed beautiful panelling c. 1740 and, about 1780, David added a new kitchen wing. During the Revolution, when little Horseneck Chapel was closed, Mrs. David Bush sponsored Church of England services in her home. Her portrait, painted in 1817 by William Dunlap, hangs in the parlor.

Much of architectural interest was discovered during its restoration, in-

cluding early wallpaper bearing the tax stamp of George II, a long abandoned stone stairway, bake ovens, and beautiful Jacobean fireplaces.

In 1882 the house was purchased by Edward P. Holley, who, with his wife, and later their daughter, Mrs. Elmer MacRae, operated it as Holley Inn. About this time it became the center for young artists and writers. John H. Twachtman conducted an art school and here, in 1912, the Association of American Painters and Sculptors was formed.

The house is furnished with noteworthy pieces of early American craftsmanship, glass, china, silver, documents, maps and prints, as well as considerable material from the early period of modern American art.

*Historical Society of the Town of Greenwich, 39 Strickland Rd. (1 block S of Boston Post Rd., Exits 4 or 5 from Conn. Tpk.), Cos Cob; phone TO 9-9849; open daily except Monday, 2-4; 50c, children free.*





### No. 3 Hoyt Farmhouse (c. 1690), Stamford

Isaac Hoyt, descendant of Simon, one of the first settlers, was an early owner of the oldest structure in downtown Stamford. Its construction suggests a 1690 date. Restoration in 1962-63 has revealed the hewed posts, mortised and pegged, and wide vertical planking, chinked with clay and covered with a thick coat of oyster white-wash. Three fireplaces are also chinked with clay. Old clapboard is seen on the porch, enclosed about 1860, and elsewhere. Planking and floors are hand sawed and the handsome doors appear to be original. The dormer was added about 1930.

A simple home, occupied by generations of simple, hard-working folk, it was long known as the "Widow Barnum House," "Betsy Barnum House," and "Grandma Barnum Homestead."

From 1822-26 it was held by Ezra St. John or his widow, Ruhanna. It became associated with the Hoyt family again on the purchase by David Barnum. As wife and widow, Betsy Barnum Hoyt lived here for 46 years before deeding the house with 10 acres of land to Charlotte Elizabeth Ferris for the nominal sum of \$100. A bequest by Mrs. Lillie Thompson Mather enabled the Stamford Historical Society to acquire the house in 1942.

Important collections include 19th century dolls, period costumes and accessories, Revolutionary and Civil War documents, 18th century household implements, 18th and 19th century carpentry and farm tools, prints, and a library of Stamford history and genealogy. There are many other exhibits of general interest.

*Stamford Historical Society, 713 Bedford St., Stamford; phone 323-1975; Tuesday through Friday, 1-5 p.m., and by appointment. 25c.*





#### No. 4 New Canaan Historical Society House (c. 1764), New Canaan

The house built about 1764 by Stephen Hanford, soldier in the French and Indian and Revolutionary wars, stands on land granted to his great-grandfather, William Haynes, by the proprietors of Norwalk. At the beginning of the Revolution, it was the principal tavern in the Parish of Canaan.

After the death of Stephen Hanford, it became the homestead of Joseph Silliman and remained in the Silliman family until 1924. The New Canaan Historical Society purchased it in 1958.

With the exception of the ell at the back, added by the Sillimans, and a few minor interior alterations in later years, the house retains its original appearance. Its location near the

early churches, in an historic area of the old town, gives it added traditional value.

Every article in the house bears witness to the attention paid to the furnishing of a house in the colonial and post-colonial period. The many gifts include pieces of fine, authentic, antique furniture and a magnificent collection of pewter.

A recent acquisition of the society, moved to the property, is the original studio of John Rogers, sculptor, housing a growing collection of his work.

Near by is the New Canaan Nature Center, a gift of Miss Susan Bliss, forty acres occupying a part of the original Haynes land grant. It offers the public nature trails and a wild-flower garden.

*New Canaan Historical Society and Rogers Studio, 79 Oenoke Ave., New Canaan; phone WO 6-1964; open Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, except holidays, 2-5 p.m.*





No. 5 Lockwood-Mathews Mansion (1868), Norwalk

A splendid example of what can be accomplished by a group of determined citizens to prevent the demolition of an outstanding structure is illustrated by the work done by the Common Interest Group of Norwalk in saving the fabulous Lockwood-Mathews Mansion. Through the efforts of this organization, a city-wide referendum resulted in a decisive vote in favor of its preservation.

LeGrand Lockwood, a native of Norwalk, a builder of railroads, an executive of shipping companies, and president of the New York Stock Exchange, in 1863, commissioned the architect, Detlef Lienau, to erect for him this great house, in design a combination of French chateau and Scottish manor. Sending to Europe for

artists, artisans and materials, there were assembled hand cut granite blocks for the exterior, and for the interior, hand carved woodwork, inlaid marquetry, sculptured plaster ceilings, frescoed walls and ceilings, carved marble mantels with mosaic inlay, and a great many other elegant and interesting details.

The mansion was completed in 1868, but three years later Lockwood lost his fortune, and, in 1786, Charles D. Mathews, New York importer, purchased the estate. His family resided here until 1938, when it was leased and later purchased by the city. Its furnishings were sold and the structure finally became a store house for surplus material. In 1959 plans were made for its destruction.

*City of Norwalk, Veterans Memorial Park, West Ave., directly off Conn. Tpk., Exit 15; phone TE 8-7531 (City Hall); open April 1 to November 1, Monday thru Friday, 1-4; Saturday and Sunday, 11-4.*





## No. 6 The Captain David Judson House (1723), Stratford

On the foundation of a house built in 1639 by William Judson, one of Stratford's first settlers, Captain David Judson, his great-grandson, erected his substantial home nearly a century later, and in 1768 the present western portion of the house was added. The early foundation can still be seen in the basement, and as the Judson family owned slaves, their quarters were also located in this portion of the building.

Like many of the old houses, this one was "modernized" in the 1800's, but under expert supervision, careful restoration has been accomplished, the removal of lath and plaster revealing the fine period panelling and early fireplaces. With this background, the house is now pleasantly furnished as a

comfortable dwelling of its day, the living rooms and bed chambers containing many original pieces. One item of special interest is an oak chest, c. 1650. The early kitchen is replete with cooking utensils and appurtenances, while in the basement are farm and household tools.

At the rear of the house is a splendid, modern, fireproof museum. Here are many rare and beautiful objects—china, glass, silver, Civil War memorabilia, swords and guns from the Revolutionary War and later wars, quaint costumes, a doll collection and items of special local interest. Here also is to be found an 800-volume library, with histories, genealogies and early documents.

*Stratford Historical Society, Academy Hill, between Main and Elm Sts.; phone DR 8-0630; open May 1 through Labor Day, Wednesday, Saturday, Sunday, 11-5; Labor Day to May 1, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, 1-5; adults 75c, children 25c.*





No. 7 Eells-Stow House (c. 1680), Milford

On the homelot granted him by the town, Samuel Eells built a simple dwelling, about 1670-80, with a wide, second story overhang, over a plaster coved cornice—a unique departure from the prevailing first story overhang.

According to a noted authority, in the central hall are the earliest “dog-legged” stairs he had ever seen.

Where once hung a rare 17th century portrait of Samuel Eells, now hangs a fine copy. “At ye Towne order,” Samuel Eells transcribed the first records of 1639. Photostats of these display his handwriting. Also on view is the unique Nichols Camp Carver chair, a documented Connecticut variant of the best Massachusetts Carvers. Nicholas Camp was one of the 44 First

Planters of Milford of 1639.

Captain Stephen Stow, the 18th century owner of the house, volunteered to nurse smallpox-ridden American soldiers discharged from a British prison ship. He succumbed to the disease, with forty of his charges. A state-sponsored monument marks their common grave.

The Frank Julian Sprague documentary is of special interest. A native of Milford, he was the first to apply successfully electricity to traction, developing the trolley car and the elevator.

Also of importance is the First Telephone Exhibit. George W. Coy, of Milford, invented the first switchboard and he was the first manager of the central office. The first telephone directory lists 42 subscribers.

*Milford Historical Society, sponsor, 34 High St., Milford; phone TR 4-2664; open May 15 to Oct. 15, Mon. and Wed. 'til noon, other days, including Sun. 1-5; during closed months, open by appointment.*





PHOTO BY GUTRICK OF MILFORD

## No. 8 The Colonel Stephen Ford House, Milford

Few houses are more closely associated with the founding of Milford than that of Colonel Stephen Ford, whose ancestors settled in Milford in 1646, and whose descendants lived here until recently.

It was a licensed tavern in 1710, situated on the original Post Road from Boston to New York. The house is now accredited in the Library of Congress as one of the early houses possessing exceptional historic and architectural interest. Especially noteworthy in construction, one will observe the unusual overhang of the roof on four sides, and some of the largest summer beams recorded in Connecticut.

Of outstanding interest is the original 18th century taproom, or tavern room, with its huge early fireplace,

whitewashed walls and its furnishings of the period. The built-in bar, with portcullis grate for closing at curfew time, today displays some of the finest examples of early drinking glasses, bottles, pottery, and other equipment the barkeeper used.

The atmosphere created by the earliest cooking utensils around the fireplace, the sausage turned high stretcher tavern table set with pewter and wooden ware, and some of the finest in early lighting, now to be seen in the house, would add greatly to the comfort and enjoyment of the fastidious traveler.

The house is of extraordinary interest in that it retains the authentic colonial heritage while being lived in today.

*Mr. and Mrs. John Burk, 142 West Main St., corner of High Street, Milford; phone TR 8-0960; open daily Monday thru Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.*





PHOTO BY MARIAN O'KEEFE

## No. 9 The Rev. Richard Mansfield House (Pre-1690), Ansonia

Rector of St. James' Church for a total of seventy-two years, from 1748 to 1820, the Rev. Richard Mansfield resided in the dwelling that is now the property of the Derby Historical Society. When the house was built and by whom are not known, but it was located in what was then a thriving shipping community, and today it is one of the few old residences remaining in the lower Naugatuck Valley.

In 1926 it was moved across the street from its original site, but in other respects the visitor today will find it much as it appeared in the days when the venerable clergyman presided over a territory which now includes ten separate towns. It still has its saltbox form, deep brown clap-

boards, and massive center chimney of stone. Its double entrance door had to be replaced, but is a duplicate of the original.

Within the house are the early fireplaces, with a huge one in the kitchen, as well as the interesting woodwork and other appointments of the period. Dr. Mansfield's study contains his old desk and Bible, while other furniture of distinction is on display.

Mansfield was ordained by the Archbishop of Canterbury, in England. His loyalty to that country caused him difficulties during the Revolutionary War, but following the war he was soon returned to a place of high esteem among all the residents of the area.

*Derby Historical Society, 35 Jewett St., Ansonia; visitors should call Mrs. Richard Morrison, RE 4-7641, or make appointment with Mrs. George Thompson, 21 Fairview Ter., Derby, RE 4-1339.*





No. 10 St. John House, Danbury

Since 1941, standing in the heart of downtown Danbury, the St. John House, a pre-Revolutionary dwelling, has housed the collections of the Danbury Scott-Fanton Museum and Historical Society and the Mary Wooster Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution. Representative of the generations who have lived there, periods from early American through Empire and late Victorian are charmingly intermingled in several living rooms, and other rooms, and the basement and attic are used to display a great variety of collections of significance to the area.

Antique furniture, costumes, Indian artifacts, mementoes of war and peace, and maps, deeds, utensils are tastefully displayed and frequently rotated. Throughout the year special exhibits

of arts and crafts, ancient and modern, are available to visitors. The Museum also sponsors lectures, film programs and special "open house" events under professional museum management, throughout the year.

The home of a Tory, the St. John House was spared during Tryon's raid on Danbury in April of 1777, when many of the dwellings of the town were looted and burned. It was attractively restored and re-opened to the public in the fall of 1958. The entire house is open to visitors, from cellar to attic, and there are special attractions for children as well as for their elders.

The Museum sponsors a Junior Curators Club whose members assist in the preparation of exhibits and in guiding visitors.

*Danbury Scott-Fanton Museum, 43 Main St., Danbury; phone 743-5200; open (except holidays) on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 2 to 5 p.m. Groups by appointment.*





No. 11 The Frederick Boardman House (1882), New Milford

Of late Victorian architecture, the spacious residence of Fredrick Boardman, built by him in 1882, became the property of the New Milford Historical Society, which established its headquarters here in 1922. The house, with an endowment fund, many antiques and family portraits, was left to the society by the Misses Helen and Kate Boardman, direct descendants of the Rev. Daniel Boardman, the town's first minister.

A group of exceptional portraits, some of them of a very early date, miniatures and other paintings acquired by the society, are outstanding among the items on display. Pottery which was once made in New Milford, furniture, glass, china, books, many beautiful cos-

tumes, and numerous pieces of interest in local history are also exhibited.

Adjoining the property and purchased by the society in 1939 is a brick structure, erected about 1820. This was the first bank of New Milford and Litchfield County, called the Litchfield County Bank. Here is displayed a large collection of Indian relics, many of which were found in the surrounding area.

Nearby, at the head of the Green, is the Knapp House, dating from about 1815 and owned by the Knapp family from 1838 until 1956, when it was given to the society by Miss Mary Clissold Knapp. It contains many of the Knapp family possessions, including furniture, costumes, and other items.

*New Milford Historical Society, 55 Main Street, New Milford; phone EL 4-3069; open Wednesday and Saturday afternoons from 2 to 5.*





No. 12 "The Captain's House," Bridgewater

Although it had been unused for many years and had fallen almost to ruin, the homely little frame building, known as "The Captain's House," has been restored to use for the collection of the local Bridgewater Historical Society.

Its age, although unknown, is well over 100 years. Its chief, indeed, its only, distinction rests on the fact that for a short period, around 1850, and while he was an infant, this was the home of William Dickson Burnham. The story of his life reads like a tale by Horatio Alger. At 14 he was a "runaway" to sea, shipping first as a cabin boy on a clipper ship; then, at 37, he had risen to Master Mariner, holding license for command of steam or sailing ships on all seas.

Later, this "dynamic character" promoted and managed the American Hawaiian Steamship Company. His residual estate was bequeathed to this town of his boyhood, for which he had a most fond affection.

The relocation and restoration of the building has been a project in which the entire community has taken a warm and generous interest, contributing not only substantial amounts by popular subscription, but also volunteering considerable skill and labor. The society was greatly favored by the Town in having permission to locate this well furnished and interesting museum on Town property, adjoining the Burnham Library, and by appropriations voted for inclusion in the Town budget.

*Bridgewater Historical Society, Main Street, Bridgewater; open by appointment by phoning EL 4-5488.*





PHOTO BY PETER R. LUCAS

### No. 13 The Glebe House (c. 1750), Woodbury

The characteristic lines and massive central chimney of the Glebe House proclaim a date of about 1750, when the small, original portion, possibly built about 1690, was enlarged. In 1771 it became the residence of John Rutgers Marshall, a priest of the Church of England, sent by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel to be rector of St. Paul's Parish.

A "glebe" is the farm land enjoyed by a parish priest as part of his benefice. His dwelling, if in town, is a rectory.

The great day in the history of this house, March 25, 1783, took place when ten priests of the Church of England met and elected Samuel Seabury to be Bishop of Connecticut. Seabury

went to England where the Archbishop of Canterbury would have consecrated him, but could not because of his taking an oath of allegiance to the Crown. At Aberdeen, November 14, 1784, he was consecrated by three bishops of the Scottish Episcopal Church, thus becoming the first bishop (of any church) with a See in the United States.

This "Bestowal of the American Episcopate" was a turning point in the emergence of the Episcopal Church as an autonomous province in the Anglican Communion and is annually observed with 'thanksgiving.

The Glebe House has been restored and is furnished appropriately to the period, 1771-1786.

*Seabury Society for the Preservation of the Glebe House, Hollow Road, Woodbury; phone 263-3681; open daily except Monday. Sunday, Tuesday, 1-5; Wednesday through Saturday, 11-5, in summer, winter, 4 p.m. Donations.*





No. 14 Tapping Reeve House (1773-4), Litchfield

Probably no other buildings are more closely associated with the early history of the legal profession than the Tapping Reeve House and the first law school in the country. Situated in one of New England's most beautiful towns, Judge Reeve's house was built for him in 1773-4 by Moses Seymour, about the time he established the school.

Classes were conducted under Reeve's direction until 1820, when they were turned over to Judge James Gould, who carried on until 1833. Gould entered the school as a student in 1795 and lectured there from 1798 until 1820. During those years probably more than a thousand were in attendance. Among the students were Vice Presidents Calhoun and Burr,

three who served on the United States Supreme Court, six cabinet members, two United States ministers to foreign countries, 101 members of Congress, 28 Senators, and 14 Governors.

The furniture includes a fine sideboard made especially for Judge Reeve by Silas Cheney, local cabinet-maker, and several clocks made in Litchfield. The room occupied by Mrs. Reeve's brother, Aaron Burr, when a student at the law school, and another once used by the Marquis de Lafayette, are among those displayed. Manuscript notebooks of law lectures, memorabilia, records of Tapping Reeve, and photographs of graduates of the school have been collected and are also on display in the house.

*Litchfield Historical Society, west side of South St., Litchfield; open May 15 to October 15, every day except Wednesday, 11-12 a.m. and 2-5 p.m.; 50c, children 25c.*





No. 15 Hotchkiss-Fyler House (1900), Torrington

In marked contrast to the simple, often rigorous life of the colonial and early Federal days, the gracious, comfortable living of a wealthy family at the beginning of the twentieth century is well reflected in the Hotchkiss-Fyler House, now the home of the Torrington Historical Society. While it may not have the appeal and evoke the same nostalgic feeling of a two or three hundred year old dwelling, it does represent an important phase in history, and recalls an era that will never be duplicated.

The house was designed by William Allen, a New Haven architect, and was constructed in 1900 for Orsamus R. Fyler, whose ancestors were among the early settlers of Connecticut. Mr. Fyler was a prominent Torrington industrial-

ist, at one time State Insurance Commissioner, and as a dominant political figure was chairman of the Republican State Central Committee.

Today the house remains furnished as it was when occupied by its last resident, Mrs. Edward Hotchkiss, daughter of Mr. Fyler. The richly upholstered furniture, the photographs and paintings, the lovely china and silver, the well stocked library, and all of the appointments displaying splendid taste, wealth and refinement are to be found here.

In an older house, next door, the historical society has many interesting exhibits of earlier Torrington days, reminiscent of home life, as well as civic and industrial activities throughout the community.

*Torrington Historical Society, 192 Main St., Torrington; phone HU 2-8260. Both houses are open only by appointment.*





No. 16 Gay-Hoyt House (1775), Sharon

The use of brick in the construction of Connecticut houses is not common, so the Gay-Hoyt House, overlooking Sharon's pleasant Green, can almost be called a rarity. It was built in 1775 by Ebenezer Gay and still retains many of the details of its original form.

Gay became an important personage in a community which had developed rapidly and had become prosperous as the result of mining, manufacturing and agriculture. Tax collector, five times representative to the General Assembly, an officer in the Trainband, Gay rose from ensign to lieutenant colonel. He was a local merchant, besides serving in the Revolutionary War.

Through financial reverses he lost his home and in 1793 it became the property of Isaac Hunt. In 1936 it became the home of Miss Anne Sherman Hoyt, who bequeathed it to the Sharon Historical Society in 1951.

The house has a center hall, with end chimneys, a small, elegant front porch, and its fireplaces are set at an angle in each room. The first floor of the house is now occupied by a shop, but the historical society maintains rooms on the second floor, where it exhibits papers, books, maps and other items of local interest, as well as a large loom which remained in the possession of the Gay family from colonial days.

*Sharon Historical Society, Main Street, Sharon; open daily, except Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.*





PHOTO BY CLINTON STUDIO, WINSTED

### No. 17 Solomon Rockwell House (1813), Winsted

Solomon Rockwell, member of a prosperous iron manufacturing family, in 1813 engaged Captain William Swift, of Colebrook, to construct an unusually fine mansion, sometimes called "Solomon's Temple," standing on a hillside overlooking the town. The house is distinctly Federal, with four great, carved pillars supporting the roof over the front porch, and smaller ones at the porch at the left wing. The interior contains a great deal of beautifully carved wood work, said to have been fashioned with a jackknife, and the lovely mantels are equally attractive.

John Boyd, second owner and son-in-law of Solomon, was Secretary of State of Connecticut, town clerk of

Winchester, and author of the "Annals of Winchester," one of the finest of the state's town histories. His step-daughter, Mary Pitkin Hinsdale, last member of the family to own the house, maintained here a small free library, and in her memory a local school is named.

Among the outstanding items on display at the house are a number of splendid 19th century portraits, eight of them by Erastus Salisbury Field; five are of the family of Riley Whiting, early clockmaker, and two are of the Rev. Frederick Marsh and his wife, Parnal Merrill. In addition to its attractive furnishings, many outstanding items of local interest are to be seen in the mansion.

*Winchester Historical Society, 225 Prospect St., corner of Lake St., Winsted; phone FR 9-4102; open daily except Sunday and Monday, June 15 to October 1, 2-5 p.m.*





### No. 18 The Seymour Inn (1816), Colebrook

In the delightful rural town of Colebrook, where there are a number of interesting, unspoiled, early buildings, most of which are privately owned, one of these has been put to practical use, being shared as the Town Hall and the headquarters of the Colebrook Historical Society. This was once the Seymour Inn, built by William Underwood as a wedding present for his daughter, Mrs. Rufus Seymour.

The inn was operated for some time by Mr. and Mrs. Seymour, beginning in 1816, if one accepts the date which appears on the inn's sign, a portion of which is still preserved. Like most of the neighboring dwellings, the house is one of white clapboards, with green blinds; has the characteristic center

chimney, and above the front door is a Palladian window.

The historical society has collected many items for its museum, among the outstanding of which are a lap organ, used in the Colebrook Congregational Church from 1799 to 1829; the pewter communion set, used in the same church, and manuscript copy of the farewell sermon delivered by its first minister, the Rev. Jonathan Edwards, Jr. Other museum pieces include farm implements, collections of bells, U. S. flags, costumes, uniforms, furniture, pictures, books by Colebrook authors, local historical papers, deeds and diaries, all of which form an interesting background for the history of the community.

*Colebrook Historical Society, Rts. 182A and 183, Colebrook Center; open May 15 to September 15 on Saturday, Sunday and holidays, 2-5, or by appointment with the society secretary, phone FR 9-2117.*





PHOTO BY ROGER C. LOOMIS

### No. 19 The Dr. Alexander King House (1764), Suffield

There are three outstanding features of the Dr. Alexander King House: The original long south porch, which led to Dr. King's office in the ell, which has fine feather edge board siding; the exceptionally attractive corner cupboard in the dining room, believed to have been done by Eliphalet King; the panel painting over the fireplace, attributed to Carlos, son of Dr. Alexander King.

The house is completely furnished with examples from the 17th to 19th century. In the old kitchen is the Thankful Taylor Hadley type chest, dated 1701, and two early Carver type chairs. One of the finest collections of Bennington pottery extant is on display.

Dr. King was a leader in the community, active in all matters pertaining to the welfare of his town, state and country. He was one of the committee to draft resolutions relative to the Stamp Act, and was active in various ways throughout the Revolutionary War. He was also one of the members of the State Convention to ratify the U. S. Constitution. Dr. King's diary indicates that he made saltpeter for gunpowder, and for which a recipe is given.

Title to the King House remained in the King family until 1869. In 1910 it was purchased by the late Hon. Samuel Reid Spencer. In 1961, Mr. and Mrs. Spencer presented it to the Suffield Historical Society.

*Suffield Historical Society, 234 South Main St., Suffield; open April to December on Wednesdays, 1:30 to 4:30; 50c.*





PHOTO BY ROGER C. LOOMIS

## No. 20 Burbank, Phelps, Hatheway, Fuller House (1736), Suffield

Among the many fine colonial homes in Suffield, the Burbank, Phelps, Hatheway, Fuller House has been characterized as one representative of "Connecticut Grandeur." Captain Abraham Burbank built the main portion of this outstanding gambrel roof house in 1736. His son, Captain Shem Burbank, sold it to Oliver Phelps, described as a fabulous land speculator in the "Genesee Country," then a frontier and now a large portion of western New York State.

Phelps was lavish in preparing his new home. About 1794 he engaged the best builders in Suffield and Windsor to construct the north ell and to attach to the south end an office or store. Among those working on this new construction was Asher Benjamin, the first native born American architectural author, who became a dominant figure in early 19th century building.

In the original house there was beautiful panelling, but when it was enlarged, its exterior was greatly elaborated to conform with the distinctive exterior of the newer portion. Fine woodwork embellishes the entire house. Of special note is the only known signed and dated panelling. Superb French wallpaper was hung at this time and still remains.

Among the architectural details to be observed on the exterior are the block modillions on the main cornice, the molded entablatures with dentils and convex frieze over the windows, the rusticated wooden quoins, and pedimented entrance porch.

Asahel Hatheway, a Suffield merchant, purchased the house in 1806. In 1962 its owners presented the property to the Antiquarian & Landmarks Society as a memorial to Sumner Fuller, a former owner.

*Antiquarian & Landmarks Soc., High St., Suffield; unfurnished. Anyone interested, call the Rev. or Mrs. R. F. Carter, Windsor Locks, NO 8-7179, in summer and fall; or Mrs. H. M. Clark, NO 8-7897*





No. 21 The Captain Elisha Phelps House (1771), Simsbury

Home, tavern, and now museum, the Phelps House has undergone varying changes through the years, yet most of the panelled woodwork remains unchanged. An excellent sampling is found in the North Parlor where the handsomely panelled fireplace wall is surmounted by a row of seven arched glass cupboard doors, with four lights in each. Below are five fine squares of panelling, and on each side of the fireplace are panels made with witches' crosses.

Equally interesting is the second floor ballroom; the original plaster on the unique barrel ceiling fresh and uncracked.

The Phelps House, a center chimney, gambrel roof structure, built by Cap-

tain Elisha Phelps in 1771, has been continuously occupied by members of the family since its construction. After the War of 1812 it was used as a tavern and during the operation of the New Haven and Northampton Canal it was called "The Canal Hotel."

In 1879 the old rear ell was replaced with a new one in the architecture of the Victorian Period.

Now the home of the Simsbury Historical Society, a gift of Mrs. Frederick H. Lovejoy, granddaughter of Jeffry Phelps. II, it is a perfect setting for the fine collection of historical objects belonging to the society. Among these are several Higley Coppers, the first copper coinage in America, mined and struck in Simsbury in 1737.

*The Simsbury Historical Society, 800 Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury; phone 658-7772.*





PHOTO BY A. S. COE

## No. 22 The Lieut. Walter Fyler House, Windsor

Situated in the oldest section of Windsor, in an area dominated by outstanding early dwellings, is the Lieut. Fyler House. While the date of its construction is not definitely known, a portion of it is attributed to Lieut. Walter Fyler, one of Windsor's first settlers, whose home lot in 1640 was at the south end of the land surrounded by palisades, erected for the protection of the families. The home was erected on this site. Fyler served the colony in the Pequot War.

The house was enlarged to its present size when the gambrel roof section was added in the 18th century, probably about 1765. The first floor includes three rooms—a keeping room, an 18th century parlor, and a bed-

room. On the second floor are two small bedrooms and a storage place.

After remaining in the possession of the Fyler family for 123 years, the property was acquired in 1763 by Nathaniel Howard, a sea captain, and because of its convenient location, a portion of it was used as a store, and here was established the town's first post office.

The early structure, with its old floors, early woodwork and panelling, forms a fine setting for the many possessions of the Windsor Historical Society which has owned the house since 1925.

A splendid museum building has been erected adjacent to the Fyler House.

*Windsor Historical Society, 96 Palisado Avenue, Windsor; phone 688-3813; open February through December, daily except Monday, 10-12, 2-5; Sunday, 2-5; 25c.*





PHOTO BY HARTFORD TIMES

### No. 23 Oliver Ellsworth Homestead (1740), Windsor

Ellsworth Homestead is a fine example of the early central hall house, retaining its original woodwork, framing and panelling. Built on land purchased by Josias Ellsworth in 1665, it remained in the family until 1903, when it was turned over to the Connecticut Daughters of the American Revolution. Oliver Ellsworth, born in 1745, married Abigail Wolcott in 1772 and returned to the homestead about 1785. He constructed the ell with large drawing room and state bedroom.

The house has always been well kept and the original woodwork, framing and panelling are all fine examples of their period. The columns reaching from the ell porch to roof are most distinctive.

The house is filled with beautiful furniture, much of it belonging to the Ellsworth family, among it an English

oak press cupboard with carved inscription "R 1698 M," a Chippendale sofa ante-dating 1792, beautifully carved bedstead, silver and china. Ellsworth brought from France about 1800 the wallpaper in his bedroom, and of exceptional interest is a Gobelin tapestry presented to Ellsworth by Napoleon Bonaparte when he retired as minister plenipotentiary to the Court of France.

Mr. Ellsworth was a member of the Continental Congress, one of the chief framers of the United States Constitution, Senator from Connecticut, third Chief Justice of the United States, and author of the judiciary act forming the basis of the present federal judicial system. He is said to have been George Washington's choice as successor to the presidency. Washington, Lafayette and President John Adams were all visitors at the homestead.

*Connecticut Daughters of the American Revolution. 778 Palisado Ave. (Route 5A), 2 miles N. of Windsor Center; phone MU 8-3584; open May 1 thru Oct., Tues. thru Sat., 1-6; or by appt; donations accepted.*





No. 24 Mark Twain House (1874), Hartford

There are probably very few people acquainted with literature who do not know the work of the famous author, Samuel L. Clemens, or, more popularly, Mark Twain, but there are not so many acquainted with the fact that in 1874 he built a truly remarkable house in Hartford and spent what were the happiest years of his life residing there. Designed by Edward T. Potter, of New York, to comply with the whims of the author, this large, rambling structure has no counterpart elsewhere.

It is built with red brick, with orange and black painted bands for ornamentation, studded with elaborate porches, balconies, gables and chimneys, while the interior is equally unmatched with rooms of unusual design, mahogany doors and woodwork with gold stencil designed by Tiffany. Some of the Clemens furniture is still on display. The

formal parlor has its original chandelier and pier glass. The library was the family living room, where its original mantelpiece has been replaced, and in the dining room is the large window over the fireplace, where Mark Twain "could watch the flames leaping to meet the falling snow flakes."

Displayed also are a Paige typesetting machine, a sleigh and a high-wheeled bicycle belonging to him, and original drawings for his books.

The house saw a constant flow of guests, and few who had entre failed to stop when in the vicinity. Letters from these praise the elegance of the quarters, the lavish entertainment and the warm scintilating atmosphere in which the Clemens family life abounded. Restoration of the house has brought back this feeling of an era of grandeur and vivacity.

*Mark Twain Library & Memorial Commission, 351 Farmington Avenue, Hartford; phone 247-0998; open daily except Monday and holidays, 10-5; Sunday, 2-5; 75c; 15-18, 50c, children, 25c.*





No. 25 Miles Lewis House (1801), Bristol

Situated in the heart of what was once the center of the clock-making industry of the country, the Miles Lewis House, erected in 1801, is now the home of the American Clock and Watch Museum, the only museum devoted exclusively to the History of American Horology.

It is an excellent example of the mansion house of the post-revolutionary period, and with the exception of a new staircase, remains as it was erected by Lewis. The great halls on each floor are flanked on either side with twin rooms, and on the first floor is the spacious ell kitchen. Chestnut and oak were used in its construction, while the flooring was of swamp maple. In keeping with its period, the house is furnished with many attractive pieces, including some attributed to clock makers, which give it the appearance of its earlier days.

The outstanding feature of the house is the unexcelled collection of clocks and watches, representing every type imaginable, produced by the early craftsmen of America. Each item is carefully labeled, giving its date and manufacturer, and in addition to the great array of timepieces, the tools of the craft are also exhibited. For those interested in research, there is a splendid library of books, catalogues, magazines, account books, diaries, ledgers, letters, pamphlets, photographs, colored slides and other readily available material.

At the rear of the house, occupying the site of the original kitchen garden, is the Ebenezer Barnes Wing, containing the curator's office, fireproof library vault, repair and storage facilities. Although it is modern, this completely new wing harmonizes with the old house.

*American Clock & Watch Museum, Inc., 100 Maple St., Bristol; open daily, except Monday, April thru October, 1-5 p.m.; group visitations by appointment.*





PHOTO BY W. F. MILLER & CO.

## No. 26 Living Room, Stanley-Whitman House (c. 1660), Farmington

There is probably no finer example of 17th century dwelling to be found in New England than the Stanley-Whitman House, a Registered National Historic Landmark. While the exact date of its construction is not known, its distinctive architectural features, according to authorities, indicate that it was built about 1660.

The great center chimney of stone and the framed overhang reflect a distinct survival of Elizabethan or Jacobean architecture, brought from England by the first settlers. The drops, or pendants, below the wide overhang of the second story, add a rare touch of ornamentation.

In 1935 the owners of the house, Mr. and Mrs. D. Newton Barney, had the house expertly restored under the direction of J. Frederick Kelly, and deeded the property to the Village Green and Library Association.

Opposite the front entrance, the stairway, built against the center chimney, leads to the second floor, while on either side is the parlor and hall, each with a large fireplace of original masonry. Beyond is the "lean to," with kitchen, buttery and "birth and death" room, probably added about 1760. The house is completely furnished with rare pieces of early American design, many of them gifts of local residents.

Among the pieces are several fashioned by local cabinetmakers, or the work of other Connecticut artisans, including clocks, chests, chairs, tables, highboys, desks, and a lamp collection.

A fireproof wing houses exhibits of old manuscripts, glass, china, silver, pewter, musical instruments and other items associated with historic Farmington.

*Farmington Museum, High St., Farmington; phone 677-9222; open every Sunday, 2-5; April 1 to November 30, weekdays except Monday, 10-12, 2-5; Dec. 1 to March 31, Fri. and Sat., 10-12, 2-5; 50c.*





PHOTO BY W. F. MILLER & CO.

## No. 27 Drawing Room of Hill-Stead Museum (1900), Farmington

In sharp contrast to the architecture and furnishings of the Farmington Museum, scarcely two blocks away, Hill-Stead Museum represents the utmost in design and accessories of a beautiful mansion, erected at the beginning of the twentieth century. Architecturally reminiscent of Mount Vernon, it was built for Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Atmore Pope and was designed by their daughter, Theodate, and the famous architect, Stanford White.

Miss Pope, who later became the wife of John Wallace Riddle, former American representative to Russia, Turkey and Argentina, also designed and built Avon Old Farms, a school for boys, near Farmington.

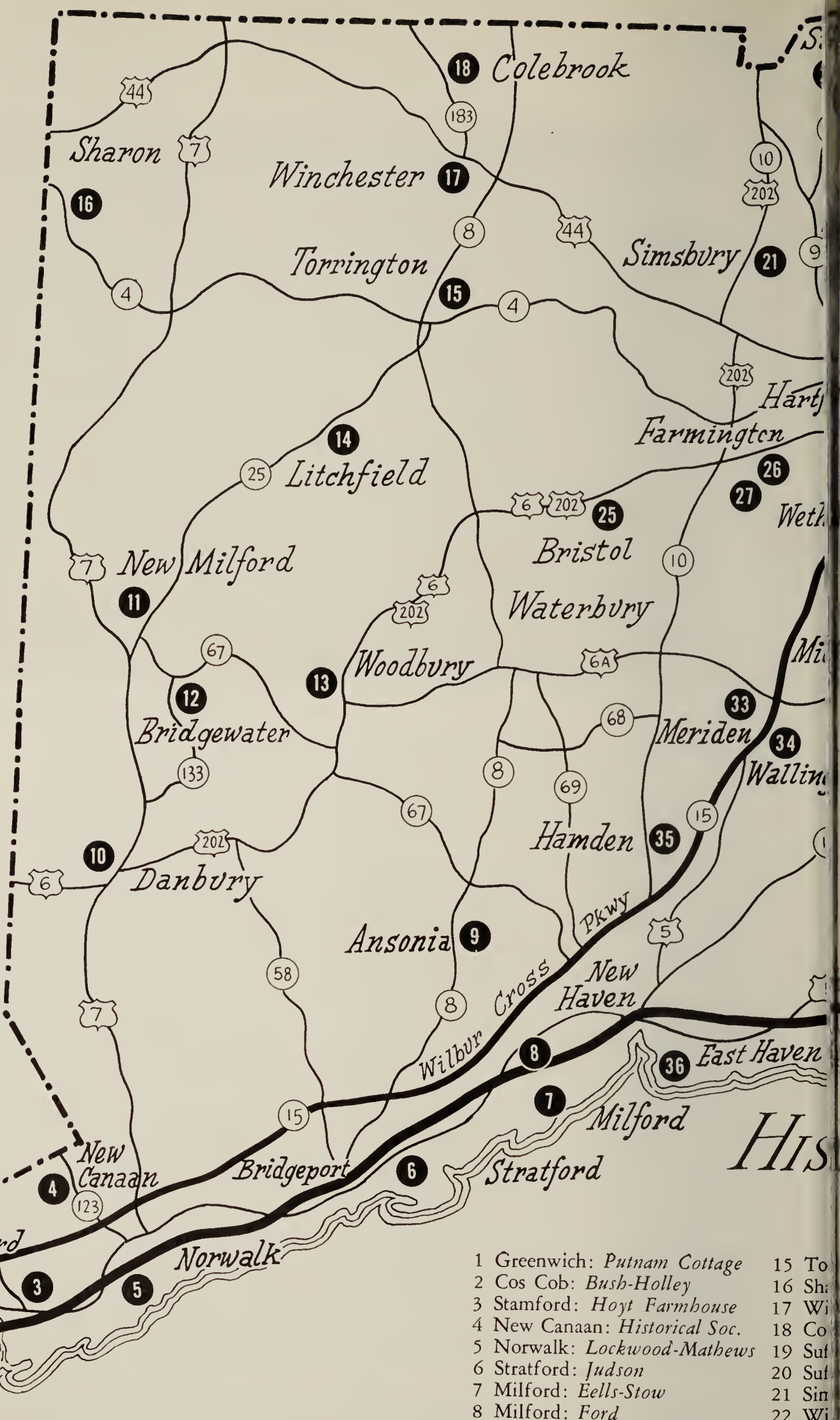
Mr. Pope, a wealthy steel magnate,

made a remarkable collection of paintings of the Impressionist School, when many of the artists were but little known in this country, and used his 29-room home for displaying his collections. Exquisitely furnished, the house was left by Mrs. Riddle to a private trust, to be maintained as Hill-Stead Museum, just as it was lived in at the time of her death in 1946.

Displayed are paintings by Manet, Monet, Degas, Mary Cassatt, Whistler and others, while the lovely furnishings include fine old period pieces, glass, china, prints and etchings, and many fascinating objects of art collected from all parts of the world. The library contains a great variety of old and modern books on many subjects.

*Hill-Stead Museum, entrances on Mountain Rd. and Farmington Ave., Farmington; phone 677-9064; open Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, Sunday, 2-5 p.m.; 50c, children 25c.*

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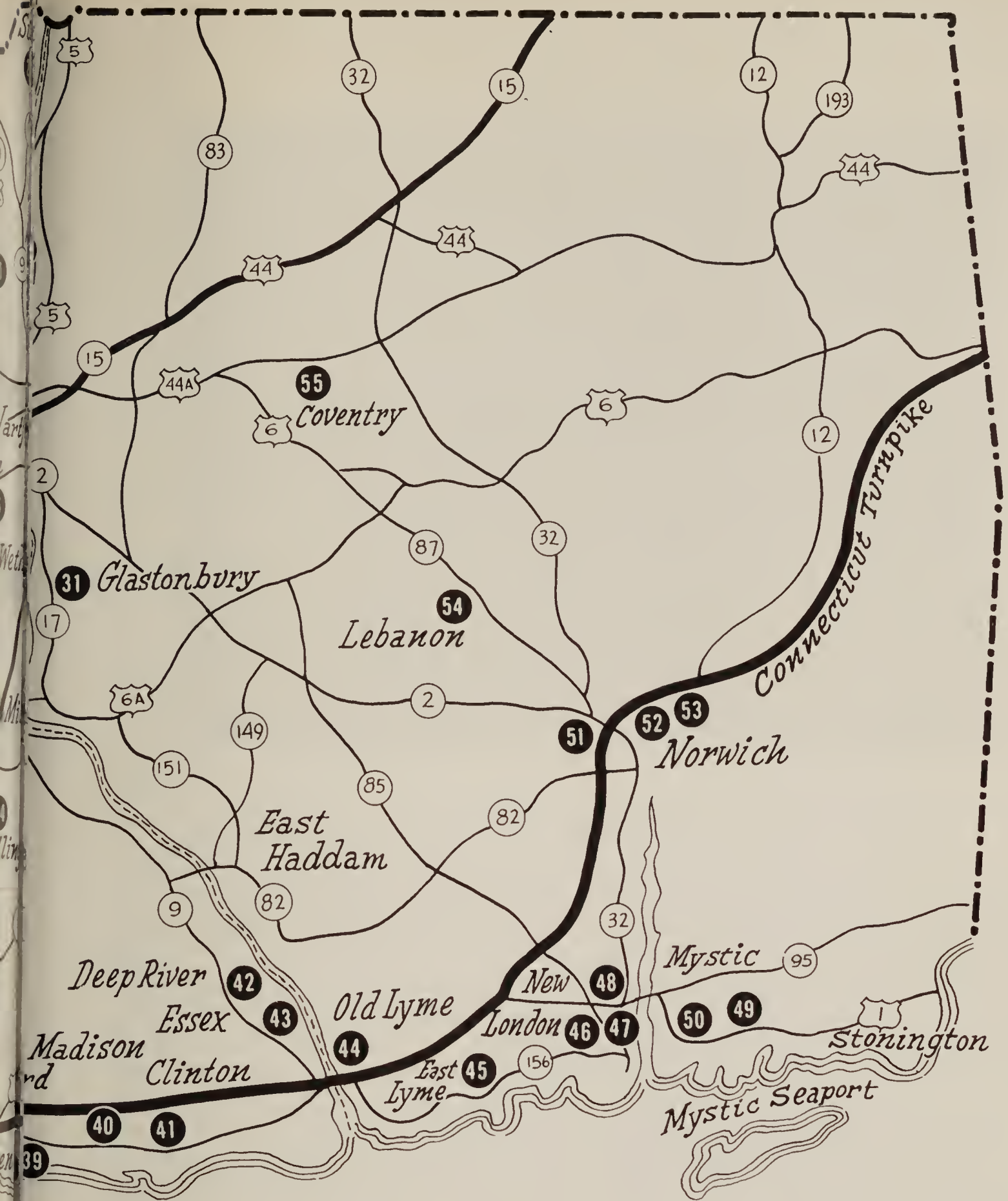


See pages 62, 63 and 64  
for list of other places  
of historical interest not  
shown on the map.

- |                                 |        |
|---------------------------------|--------|
| 1 Greenwich: Putnam Cottage     | 15 To  |
| 2 Cos Cob: Bush-Holley          | 16 Sha |
| 3 Stamford: Hoyt Farmhouse      | 17 Wi  |
| 4 New Canaan: Historical Soc.   | 18 Co  |
| 5 Norwalk: Lockwood-Mathews     | 19 Suf |
| 6 Stratford: Judson             | 20 Suf |
| 7 Milford: Eells-Stow           | 21 Sim |
| 8 Milford: Ford                 | 22 Wi  |
| 9 Ansonia: Rich. Mansfield      | 23 Wi  |
| 10 Danbury: St. John            | 24 Ha  |
| 11 New Milford: Boardman        | 25 Bri |
| 12 Bridgewater: Captain's House | 26 Far |
| 13 Woodbury: Glebe              | 27 Far |
| 14 Litchfield: Tapping Reeve    | 28 We  |



# RHODE ISLAND



## HISTORIC HOUSES OF CONNECTICUT Open to the public

Hotchkiss-Fyler	29 Wethersfield: Webb	43 Essex: Pratt
Hoyt	30 Wethersfield: Stevens	44 Old Lyme: Florence Griswold
Simon Rockwell	31 So. Glastonbury: Welles	45 East Lyme: Lee
Coyne Inn	32 Middletown: Gen. Mansfield	46 New London: Hempsted
King	33 Meriden: Andrews	47 New London: Shaw
Bank, Phelps	34 Wallingford: Parsons	48 New London: Deshon-Allyn
Escha Phelps	35 Hamden: Dickerman	49 Mystic: Denison
Walter Fyler	36 New Haven: Morris	50 Mystic: Buckingham
Worth	37 Guilford: Whitfield	51 Norwich: Leffingwell Inn
Mark Twain	38 Guilford: Hyland	52 Norwich: Rockwell
as Lewis	39 Guilford: Thos. Griswold	53 Norwich: Backus
Stanley-Whitman	40 Madison: Allis	54 Lebanon: Trumbull
Hill-Stead	41 Clinton: Stanton	55 Coventry: Hale
Buttolph-Wms.	42 Deep River: Stone House	





PHOTO BY MEYERS STUDIO

### No. 28 Buttolph-Williams House (c. 1690), Wethersfield

One can scarcely picture a more characteristic late 17th century dwelling than that built by David Buttolph during the 1690 decade. Its outward appearance is immediately striking, but when one steps inside he at once feels the full impact of being in the center of an early American way of life.

David Buttolph lived here but a very short time and by 1711 it had become the property of Benjamin Beldon, who was licensed to keep a tavern. In 1721 it was sold to Daniel Williams and his family occupied it for many years. By 1947 it had become the property of the Antiquarian & Landmarks Society of Connecticut and in its work of restoration, many fascinating discoveries were made. One of the first of these was to find beneath the relatively modern clapboards the original thin white pine clapboards. Other interesting details were brought to light, and today

the house has very much the same appearance it had when constructed in the 17th century.

Here is assembled an outstanding collection of very early American antiques. "Ye Greate Kitchin," with its many utensils, tables, chairs and benches, wooden ware, pewter, and other accessories, is the most completely furnished room of its kind in New England. Elsewhere are many other rare items—a unique 17th century fireback, oak and pine Hartford chest, mushroom arm chairs, early delft, court cupboards, homespun linen.

An early Buttolph inventory enumerates thirty trenchers, the number now in the house, together with a jack and weights for turning the spit before the fireplace. Also treasured is the rare 17th century half circle settle, as is the trestle-foot gate leg table, together with the rare twin high chairs.

*Antiquarian & Landmarks Society of Connecticut, Broad St., Wethersfield; phone 529-0460; open May 15 to October 15, 11-4:30; 50c.*





PHOTO BY ROBERT L. NAY

### No. 29 Joseph Webb House (1752), Wethersfield

Few houses in the country have greater historical significance than the Joseph Webb House. It was here in May, 1781, that General Washington spent five days in conference with Count de Rochambeau, making campaign plans for the American and French troops, which ultimately led to the battle of Yorktown and the establishment of American independence. Arrangements for the conference were made by Samuel Webb, who was Washington's private secretary, and a brother of Joseph Webb, Jr.

Aside from its historical importance, which resulted in its designation as a National Shrine in 1961, the house is one of special interest. Its small ell was built by Major Samuel Wolcott II in 1678, while the main portion was constructed by Joseph Webb, Sr., in 1752. Its gambrel roof, brownstone underpinnings, columnar front entrance porch,

central hall, Georgian staircase and fine panelling about the fireplaces contribute to its architectural distinction.

Many important political figures, including Governor Jonathan Trumbull, Colonel Jeremiah Wadsworth, General Henry Knox and other visiting dignitaries were entertained here, giving it the name of "Hospitality Hall."

The room where Washington slept still retains its original imported wallpaper and is authentically furnished, as are all of the other rooms, displaying the outstanding taste and meticulous workmanship of the early cabinetmakers. Chinese export porcelain, lovely English silver, early crewel work and tapestries, and many other authentic and rare items make up the particularly fine details that immediately attract the attention of the visitor with a picture of 18th century living at its best.

*Connecticut Society of the Colonial Dames of America, 211 Main St., Wethersfield; phone 529-0612; open Mar. thru Oct., 10-5, Sun., 1-5; Nov. thru Feb., 10-3, closed Sun.; 75c; special group rates.*





PHOTO BY ROBERT L. NAY

### No. 30 Isaac Stevens House (1788-9), Wethersfield

In marked contrast to the formal elegance of its next door neighbor, the Webb House, the Isaac Stevens House is more simple in character—a plain, but substantial and well proportioned country home. Built in 1788-9 by Stevens for his bride, the dwelling remained in the same family for a period of 170 years, when it was acquired by the Connecticut Society of Colonial Dames of America, to insure its preservation in this historic town.

Of peaked roof construction, with a beautiful crown molding, its exterior has a unique and original feature in the rear, being enclosed with weatherboarding instead of the usual clapboards. At the door yard is a well and small herb garden, once an important adjunct of the early homes.

The interior is planned with a central hall, with four rooms on the first floor and five bedrooms on the sec-

ond. Its early panelling, kitchen fireplace, original hand-fashioned hardware and other features remain, including the sliding blinds, or "Indian shutters," at the first floor windows. There are still the original lights over the back door, which retains its early paint.

As it was no longer considered authentic, because of many alterations, an ell that was added to the house, perhaps some six to ten years after the original construction, has been removed.

On display are many possessions of the Stevens family, including furniture, glass, china and cooking utensils, but especially noteworthy is the fact that it has an emphasis on children, including a small museum, with toys, books, clothes and other items relating to members of the younger generation.

*Connecticut Society of Colonial Dames of America, 215 Main Street, Wethersfield; open March thru October, 10-5; Sunday, 1-5; November thru February, 10-3; closed Sunday; 50c.*





No. 31 The Welles-Shipman House (1755), South Glastonbury

Among the fine colonial homes along the Main Street of Glastonbury and South Glastonbury is the Welles-Shipman House, recently acquired by the Historical Society of Glastonbury. The Welles family was an important one in the area, beginning with the first settlers, and one of its members, Thomas Welles, an officer in the militia, constructed his dwelling in 1755, a date substantiated by the initials "J.-W." and the year painted on the lintel of a fireplace, discovered during recent restoration work. In 1785 this house became the home of Capt. Stephen Shipman.

The fact that the house was photographed and measured by the Historic American Building Survey for the Library of Congress indicates the architectural significance of the structure. It

is a two story frame house, with center chimney, clapboarded exterior, and twelve over twelve windows. The cornices over the windows, the ornamentation of the main cornice across the front of the house, and the classic doorway and its decorative details are noteworthy. A small kitchen ell was probably added in the latter part of the 19th century.

The interior retains much of its original fine woodwork, including exquisite panelling, cornices, wainscoting, corner cupboards, encased summer beams and panelled doors. Of special interest are the inside shutters on the window tracks of one of the rooms.

The furnishings include some beautiful antiques, in keeping with its 18th century date.

*The Historical Society of Glastonbury, Inc., 972 Main St., South Glastonbury. At this time restoration is incomplete. Those interested, write to Mrs. T. B. Rhines, Recorder 1855 Main St., Glastonbury; phone 633-9836.*





PHOTO BY STEKL

## No. 32 The General Mansfield House (1810), Middletown

None of Connecticut's open houses has a closer association with the Civil War period than the General Joseph King Fenno Mansfield House, for it was here that this Regular Army officer made his home for a number of years. Construction of this brick town house was commenced in 1807 by Robert Robinson for Samuel and Catherine Livingston Mather and was completed in 1810. About the turn of the century alterations were made to the interior and a wing to the north and west was added.

In 1838 the Mathers' daughter, Louisa Maria, and Mansfield were married and, except for a brief period, this was their home through the balance of their lives. A graduate of the

U. S. Military Academy, Mansfield was a member of the Corps of Engineers and for a time was Inspector General of the Army. He saw service in the Mexican War and spent considerable time on the then frontier sections of the country. He commanded troops at the battle of Antietam, where he was mortally wounded, September 17, 1862. He died the following day and his body was returned to Middletown for interment.

Items relating to the General's life are on display, as well as letters from important personages, fine pieces of furniture, a chair used by George Washington, a Harland grandfather clock, and other material that is worthy of note.

*Middlesex County Historical Society, 151 Main St. (So. from Rt. 6A), Middletown; phone DI 6-0746; open Wednesdays, 3 to 5, and by appointment; 35c.*





PHOTO BY ALLEN E. MYERS

### No. 33 The Andrews Homestead (1760), Meriden

Almost at the edge of the business center of Meriden there has fortunately been preserved a fine colonial dwelling of excellent architectural form, typical of the Connecticut saltbox, with two lean-tos at the back. This is the Andrews Homestead, possibly constructed in 1760 by its first owner, Moses Andrews, members of his family having been known to be carpenters. Moses built the house on the edge of his father's farm, the latter having taken up land in that area many years earlier.

Notwithstanding its numerous changes in ownership and the various uses to which it has been put, its characteristic features remain—the massive center chimney, fireplaces, fine paneling, delicately turned bannisters and

other details.

Moses Andrews is best known for his activities in behalf of the Episcopal Church. Like many others of his religious faith, he came under suspicion during the Revolutionary War days and was ordered confined to his own property. Denied permission to attend Sunday services, he invited his neighbors to congregate at his home, and from this developed a formal organization of the church Society in 1789.

The Homestead is now owned by the City, but is leased to the Meriden Historical Society, which maintains it as a museum, attractively furnished and displaying many items of interest—early chests, bedsteads, tables, clocks, tableware and numerous “made in Meriden” products.

*Meriden Historical Society, 424 West Main St., Meriden; phone BE 7-5079; open Sundays 2-5, and when resident custodian is at home, or by appointment; 25c, children free.*





### No. 34 Parsons House (1759), Wallingford

Once a tavern and stopping point for stage coaches plying between New York and Boston, the attractive, colonial red, gambrel roof dwelling, now the home of the Wallingford Historical Society, was built for Samuel Parsons in 1759, and in 1855 a small ell was added. Except for recent structural improvements, few changes have been made in this house, located not too far from the stockades built in 1676 for the protection of the early settlers.

The Parsons family occupied the house until 1803, when it was deeded to Captain Caleb Thompson. This family retained it until 1919, when Mrs. Fannie Ives Schember, granddaughter of Captain Caleb Thompson, bequeathed it to the society.

Six fireplaces, together with interesting cupboards, good panelling, chair rails, and other wood work provide an authentic background for the many items to be found here. Two period rooms of the 18th and 19th centuries have been carefully arranged and furnished. There is a library of many old volumes and documents; a pantry with old china; one room entirely devoted to Civil War relics; another to small farm tools, and still another to firearms. A large show case in the museum room exhibits linen, costumes, silver, pewter, musical instruments, school books, Indian pieces, and old coins.

In front of the house is a Franklin milestone inscribed "VII N. H., meaning seven miles to New Haven.

*Wallingford Historical Society, 180 South Main St., Wallingford; phone CO 9-3816, CO 9-2813 or CO 9-6273; open Sundays 2-5, other days by appointment.*





PHOTO BY MICHAEL KURTZ

### No. 35 Jonathan Dickerman "Old Red House," Hamden

A simple, red, story and a half house, with center chimney and a roof sweep which extends over its front, was erected almost in the shadow of Hamden's famed "Sleeping Giant," and was originally the home of Jonathan Dickerman II. He undoubtedly built the house about 1770, the year he married Miriam Bradley. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Nathaniel Sherman. Jonathan was one of nineteen children, born in his father's home nearby.

The house, which at an earlier date had two ells, but since removed, was associated with the Dickerman family through an entire century. Amelia and Philas Dickerman owned it for many years and during the 1850's it was the

home of Caroline A. Dickerman, a great-granddaughter of the builder. Early in the twentieth century it was bought by Homer B. Tuttle, who married Augusta E. Dickerman, the great-great-granddaughter of Jonathan II. Mr. Tuttle sold the house to John Edward Heaton and it was from him that the Sleeping Giant Park Association received it as a gift in 1924.

The Hamden Historical Society, organized in 1928, has maintained the house and opened it to the public as an historic site.

The Connecticut State Park and Forest Commission, through legislative action, transferred the old house to the Hamden Historical Society in June, 1961.

*The Hamden Historical Society, Mt. Carmel Ave., Mt. Carmel. As changes for the house are under way, phone 248-6884 or 248-0809 to make sure it is open. No admission fee.*





No. 36 Morris House (1685-1779), New Haven

While New Haven's historic Green, laid out about the time of the settlement of the town in 1638, survives, very few of its early houses still remain. Among these, however, is the Morris House. The first dwelling on the site was erected by Eleazar Morris in 1685. A massive stone end, incorporating the chimney and fireplaces, formed its north wall.

Detailed study has led to some fascinating theories regarding the enlargement of the house, for as the Morris family grew, rooms were added and another wall of masonry was constructed at the south, while an ell became the "new" kitchen. On July 5, 1779, British troops landed nearby, and on their march toward New Haven, this mansion was burned.

As the foundations and stone walls survived the fire, Amos Morris, the owner at that time, immediately started the reconstruction of the house, although it took a period of nearly ten years to complete it. Further changes were made during the 19th century, including the installation of a second story ballroom.

The house was purchased in 1915 by William S. Pardee, who did some restoration work, and in 1918 he bequeathed it to the New Haven Colony Historical Society. Under the ownership of this organization further restorations have been made. Furnished appropriately, it is now the sole surviving structure of its period. in New Haven still retaining most of its character.

*New Haven Colony Historical Society, Pardee-Morris House, 325 Lighthouse Rd. (via Townsend Ave. from Exit 50, Conn. Tnpk), New Haven; phone 467-0764, open May 1 to Nov. 1, weekdays, except Saturday, 10-5; Sunday, 2-5.*





PHOTO BY SEDGE LE BLANG

### No. 37 Henry Whitfield House (1639), Guilford

The Rev. Henry Whitfield, founder of the town of Guilford, leader of one of the earliest groups of colonists in the United States, and an important figure in the religious world of his day, built what is probably the oldest stone house in the country, at about the time of the settlement in 1639. Having come from England, the builder erected what was a representative example of an elaborate English Midlands manor house of the 16th-17th centuries, with steeply pitched roof, small windows and great hall.

The Great Hall is thirty-three feet long and fifteen feet wide, with a huge fireplace at each end. In the middle of it is a partition hinged to a second floor joist, that either divides the room into two or swings up to the ceiling out of the way. The only other room on the first floor is the kitchen.

In its early days the house served not only as dwelling place for Whitfield, his wife, Dorothy, and seven of their nine children, but also as a headquarters for the community of twenty-five families, and as garrison and meeting house. During its history the house served various purposes, was gutted by fire in 1865, rebuilt in 1868, and in 1902 it became a museum, owned by the state. Just prior to 1939 the house was restored, as far as is known, to its original form by the architect J. Frederick Kelly. About a third of the present building is original.

As a museum, there are on display rare and authentic pieces of 17th century household furnishings of all descriptions; exhibits of early weaving, metal working and crafts; a contemporary herb garden, and many unusual items.

*State of Connecticut, Whitfield St., Guilford, 1/2 mile due S. of Exit 58, Interstate 95; phone GL 3-2457; open Jan. 15-Dec. 15, except Mon.; April, Oct., 10-5; Nov.-March, 10-4; 50c, children under 18, free.*





No. 38 The Hyland House (1660), Guilford

A fine example of early saltbox, with a d d e d lean-to, was b u i l t by George Hyland about 1660. Original, unpainted clapboards, still to be seen in the keeping room, attest to the fact that the lean-to was probably annexed in 1720 when Ebenezer Parmelee acquired the house. Another unique feature is the chamfered overhang on the sides of the main house—a refinement marking it as one of the finer houses of its day.

Here one has the feeling of visiting a 17th century family, for the house is completely furnished with authentic appointments of the period—the Bible box, complete array of kitchen utensils around the fireplace, a loom ready for use, the Guilford chest with its origi-

nal painted decoration. An early chair-table, a Carver chair, tavern tables and other interesting pieces of furniture are in place. A pencil-post bed, covered with a resist-dyed quilt, is in one of the chambers.

Here, too, one finds an original window casement, some fascinating old panelling, as well as the butterfly and H and HL hinges which are part of the original hardware. The staircase leading to the second floor is handsome, and the same fine work is lavished equally on the stairway to the attic.

In this house Ebenezer Parmelee made the first town clock in America, completed in 1726, for the steeple of the Congregational Church.

*Dorothy Whitfield Historical Society, 84 Boston St., Guilford; open June 15 to September 30, daily except Monday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., 50c.*





PHOTO BY RICHARD CHAPMAN

### No. 39 Thomas Griswold House (1735), Guilford

"A salt box of exquisite proportions" is the term used by Samuel Chamberlain, noted photographer, in tersely and accurately describing the Thomas Griswold House. From its construction in 1735, the dwelling remained the property of the Griswold family until 1958, when it was purchased by the Guilford Keeping Society.

Standing on a slight rise of ground above the road and separated from the highway by a fence which once served as part of the ornamentation of the belfry of the First Congregational Church, which stood on the Green prior to 1829, the house presents a pleasing picture of antiquity. In fact, its beauty was so recognized that its picture once appeared on a commemorative stamp.

The purpose of the Keeping Society is to preserve the best of "old" Guilford—its architecture, history, records and legends, with the result that one may find here many exceptional items of the town's artifacts from 1735 to the present day, rather than a furnished house of any particular period. However, early wallpaper, harmonizing with old paint tones, helps to accentuate the numerous fine pieces of furniture.

The house serves the community for meetings, special exhibits and similar purposes.

The village blacksmith shop with forge and ox sling, together with hundreds of early farm utensils, are located in the barn museum at the rear of the house.

*Guilford Keeping Society, 161 Boston St., Guilford; phone GL 3-9910; open daily except Monday, 1 to 5 p.m.; closed in January; 50c, children under 12 free.*





No. 40 Kitchen of Nathaniel Allis House (1739), Madison

Madison was one of Connecticut's early towns, and in this community where fine colonial homes survive, the Nathaniel Allis House is one of the landmarks. While the early history of the house is somewhat obscure, it is believed to have been built by Nathaniel Allis II in 1739, at the time of his marriage to Hannah Scranton.

Today the house is wider than many of its type, but its long sloping roof and the slight overhang above the first floor characterize it as one of early construction.

Three generations of the Allis family lived here, following which it was owned briefly by Ichabod Lee Scranton, who, in the same year, 1825, sold it to Nathan Bushnell. Nathan was the

father of Cornelius Bushnell, who was one of the promoters of the shore line railroad, a shipbuilder who provided many vessels for the government, and one who largely financed with his own funds the construction of the "Monitor," the definitive ironclad of the Civil War.

The old fireplaces, heavy construction beams and corner posts, and other interior details provide a splendid setting for the lovely furnishings and numerous items which are on display.

A large carriage house, just beyond the dwelling, provides additional space for exhibits, including farm tools, household utensils, looms, Indian artifacts, Civil War relics and many items of local historic interest.

*Madison Historical Society, Boston Post Road, Madison; phone CI 5-4567; open 10-5 daily, except Sunday and Monday, June 15 to September 15; 50c; children over 12, 25c.*





No. 41. Kitchen of the Adam Stanton House (c 1790), Clinton

The Adam Stanton House was built between 1789 and 1791, upon the site of the Rev. Abraham Pierson home. Mr. Stanton had opened a retail store in 1777, and in 1804 he moved the business into the east ell, which he had built for that purpose. The store operated until 1864.

Three generations of Stantons lived in this fine old house and the last of the family, Lewis Elliot Stanton, left it as a public museum in memory of his brother, John Adam Stanton, who had gathered 18th and 19th century furnishings appropriate for the house. These included ancestral pieces, gate-leg tables, high post beds, embroideries in silk made by the family, china and pewter. Even the two attics

possess many interesting and unusual items.

A unique feature of the house is the fact that the wooden partitions between the two front rooms and the front hall were hung on H and L hinges in order that the partitions could be swung upward, hooked to the ceiling, and the front of the house thus thrown into one room for assemblies, dances and other social gatherings.

Of special interest is the replica of a country store which occupies the ell of the building.

The Rev. Abraham Pierson, whose house originally occupied the property, was the first rector, or president, of Yale College.

*Hartford National Bank, 63 E. Main St., Clinton; phone MO 9-2132; open afternoons until 5, except Mondays, May 1 to November 1; in winter, by appointment.*





PHOTO BY STEKL

### No. 42 The Stone House (1840), Deep River

Representative of one of the important early industries of the lower Connecticut River Valley, that of quarrying building stone, the present headquarters of the Deep River Historical Society was erected in 1840 for Deacon Ezra Southworth and his bride, Eunice Post. The Southworth family was an important one and the Stone House remained in possession of the family until it was bequeathed to the Historical Society by Ada Southworth Munson in 1947. Deep River was at one time a portion of the original town of Saybrook.

The original house had a flat tin roof, with a slight slope to the back. Later a plain hip roof was constructed

over the first, which then became the present attic floor. Other Victorian changes made in the 1880's included the addition of a large gable and the building of a pillared porch, together with a wood ell on the rear. The latter was rebuilt in the 1950's to suit the convenience of the society. The barn was also remodeled to conform with the house.

Of special interest today is the Marine Room which contains many items relating to local Connecticut River history. There are some 300 pieces of cut glass made in Deep River, and also on display is a group of oil paintings of the 1840-50 period by a local artist, O. Dickinson.

*Deep River Historical Society, So. Main St., Deep River; open Thursday afternoons in the summer, at other times by appointment with the curator, Mrs. Edna McQueeney (Town Clerk).*





No. 43 Lt. William Pratt House, Essex

One of the loveliest coastal towns in New England is Essex. Among its earliest settlers was Lt. William Pratt, who had gone with the Rev. Thomas Hooker and his group from Massachusetts to Hartford in 1636, and then, in 1645, had migrated to Saybrook, parent town of Essex. Here he built a small, one-room dwelling, which he enlarged to a four-room gambrel roofed house. He served in the Pequot War, was made a lieutenant in 1661, and from 1666 until his death in 1678, he was a representative in the General Court.

The main portion of the structure was probably erected during the middle of the 18th century. It was bequeathed by Mr. and Mrs. Samuel

Griswold, in 1952, to the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities and since its restoration has been outstanding as a museum, representative of its period. The center chimney, fireplaces, the beaded pine sheathing, hand hewn oak and chestnut beams, the gunstock corner posts, wide floor boards and other details feature its construction.

Among its furnishings are a collection of courting mirrors, pewter made by Joseph Danforth of Middletown, a cherry chest-on-chest, maple tester bed, mahogany lowboy, mahogany highboy with scroll top, and other fine pieces of early craftsmen. There is also a letter from George Washington to Eben Huntington, dated 1785.

*Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, 20 West Ave., Essex; phone SO 7-8663; open July 1 to September 15, Monday thru Friday, 1-4 p.m., and by appointment; 25c, children free.*





PHOTO BY LINCOLN MCCABE

#### No. 44 Florence Griswold House (1817), Old Lyme

The home of the Lyme Historical Society is an outstanding example of Greek revival architecture, designed by the noted architect Samuel Belcher, who also adapted Christopher Wren's plans for the Old Lyme Congregational Church that graces the head of Main Street.

The Griswold House became famous under the aegis of Miss Florence Griswold, a charming and cultivated woman of the distinguished old Connecticut family. Her father was a colorful packet ship owner and captain who brought back rare furnishings from Europe and the East. The spacious interior of the house still provides an appropriate setting for many of these, as well as for similar antique treasures loaned by col-

lectors, and also for a permanent collection of rare Staffordshire, Lowestoft, Satsuma and Imari china.

In 1900 Miss Florence welcomed a group of prominent American artists, thus forming the first summer art colony in the country. Among these were Henry W. Ranger (the first to appear), Childe Hassam, Willard Metcalf, Frank V. Dumond, Allen Talcott and many others. As a token of their high regard for their hostess, the artists, over the years, did some of their finest paintings on the doors throughout the first floor of the house and covered 39 panels in the dining room with superb examples of their work.

Special exhibits are added in the summer and changed periodically.

*Lyme Historical Society, Exit 70 Conn. Tnpk, nearest building north of Lyme Art Gallery, Old Lyme; phone GE 4-1045; open summers, 2-5, except Monday; 25c.*





No. 45 The Thomas Lee House (c. 1660), East Lyme

Seven English sovereigns were recognized by the Lee family which occupied this house, beginning with Ensign Thomas Lee II, who constructed his single room dwelling around 1660. As the family grew, the house was enlarged, two rooms being added about 1695, and further additions, 1730-35, brought it to its present form—a center chimney, saltbox type—reputed to be the oldest frame structure in the state and generally recognized for its interesting architectural details.

Changes were made over the years, but in 1914 it was restored by Norman Morrison Isham, noted authority on Connecticut architecture, for the East Lyme Historical Society. A classic cornice extends across the front and the entrance door is surmounted by

five small window lights. The earliest, or east room, is sheathed vertically with shadow-moulded boards. The west rooms are plastered and panelled.

The Lee family held important posts in the colonial days. Ensign Thomas was a land holder, constable, head of the Train Band, and member of the General Assembly in 1676. His son John was author of "Dying Charge." John's son, John, was king's attorney, and another son, Joseph, was author of the Lee genealogy. Thomas Lee III, was a local justice for more than 40 years, and the Lee house was his seat of judgment.

The furnishings in the several rooms and kitchen reflect the life of the periods of growth of the family over a period of 250 years.

*East Lyme Historical Society, Inc., Shore Rd., Route 156, opposite Bride Brook Rd., near entrance to Rocky Neck State Park; open afternoons, June 15 to September 15; 50c, children free (contribution accepted).*





PHOTO BY LOUIS H. FROHMAN

#### No. 46 Interior View, Hempsted House (1678-1728), New London

The Hempsted family had resided in their homestead for almost a hundred years when Benedict Arnold landed with his British forces and burned most of New London in 1781, but fortunately the Hempsted House survived. After its occupancy by ten generations of the family, it stands today, both in its architecture and period furnishings, as one of the finest of colonial dwellings.

Robert Hempsted was the first of the family to settle in New London, coming there from Long Island. He, with several others, received a grant of land in 1645 and may have built an earlier house.

Few houses have such a carefully documented history, thanks to the diary of Joshua Hempsted II, with the result that not only definite periods of the house are known, but types of furnishing as well. The west portion of

the house was built by Joshua Hempsted I in 1678, while the newer, or eastern portion, was added by his grandson, Nathaniel, in 1728. During the next two hundred years changes were made in the structure, but after its acquisition in 1938 by the Antiquarian & Landmarks Society, a very careful study was made, resulting in a most painstaking restoration.

In furnishing the museum, full use was made of notations in the diary, and many masterpieces in very early furnishings, including some from the Hempsted family, have been used. There are numerous rarities in wrought iron, wooden ware, pewter and brass; simple cupboards and chests; Queen Ann tables; Bible box; candle stands; Carver chairs; early Connecticut tables; early hand spun and woven materials, and even a primitive baby walker and a folding bed.

*Antiquarian & Landmarks Society of Conn., 11 Hempstead St., New London; phone 443-7949; open May 15 to October 15, week days, 10:30-12, 1-4:30; Sunday 2-5; 75c, children 25c.*





PHOTO BY ROBERT L. PERRY

### No. 47 The Shaw Mansion (1756), New London

Connecticut's Naval Office during the Revolutionary War was located at the home of Captain Nathaniel Shaw and his son, Nathaniel, Jr., the latter having been appointed Naval Agent, successfully accomplishing the enormous task of providing ships, provisions, arms and money for the troops.

Captain Shaw, who came to New London about 1732, started a career sailing vessels from this port. He soon became a master and owner, and his successful ventures enabled him to establish a lucrative mercantile business. In January 1756 a ship load of dispossessed Acadians from Nova Scotia reached the port and Captain Shaw helped with rehabilitation by engaging thirty-five of them to quarry stone from his land and build his house.

When Benedict Arnold burned New London in 1781, a portion of the building was destroyed, but most of it was saved by prompt action of the neighbors. During the 19th century the house was considerably altered; a porch added, and the north wing constructed where the original wooden wing was burned.

Members of the Shaw family owned the property until 1907, when it was purchased by the New London County Historical Society. Numerous pieces of furniture owned by the Shaws, as well as silver, china and books are on display. There is also a superb collection of letters and manuscripts. The room that was once occupied by General George Washington is maintained as a memorial.

*New London County Historical Society, 11 Blinman St., New London; phone GI 3-1209; open Tuesday through Saturday from 1 to 5. Admission 50c; children 25c when accompanied by adult.*





No. 48 Deshon-Allyn House (1829), New London

Of unusual charm and distinction, the Deshon-Allyn House, located on the grounds of the Lyman Allyn Museum, was built in 1829 by Captain Daniel Deshon, prosperous and prominent whaling master. It represents the elegance and character of the late Federal period. Though the architect is not known, many of the interesting interior details were taken from the handbooks of Asher Benjamin.

The exterior is of massive granite construction, the corners edged with finished stone quoins. Beneath the eaves, a heavy, carved cornice is carried around the building. The six-panel front door is flanked by sidelights and topped with a square transom. The mullions are of carved wood, ornamented with lead palmettes. The same treatment is applied to a beautifully

executed Palladian window above the front door.

With a large central hall and four square rooms on each floor, each room contains a fireplace, four original. The others are characteristic of the Federal period, including a black marble one, installed when the Hill House Mansion in New Haven was torn down. The house is furnished as of 1829 with furniture and decorative accessories from the Lyman Allyn Museum collections, all outstanding pieces. The portraits, landscapes and other pictures on display are in keeping with the era.

The house was purchased in 1851 by another prosperous whaler, Captain Lyman Allyn, and was occupied by the Allyn family until acquired by the Museum.

*Lyman Allyn Museum, 613 Williams Street, New London; phone GI 3-2545; open 1 to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, on request to the Museum.*





PHOTO BY FRANK JO RAYMOND

### No. 49 The Federal Parlor, Denison Homestead (1717), Mystic

This famous mansion is unique in two respects:

1. It was restored by Frederick Kelly in successive periods: 1717 kitchen; 1775 and 1860 bedrooms; 1810 and 1910 parlors.

2. It is authentically furnished throughout with family heirlooms: all floor coverings, pictures, furniture were always at home right here.

It is a vivid, realistic picture of how our ancestors lived their daily lives through eleven generations.

Here are many examples of the successive "modernizations" made in most old houses to meet changing living conditions: open fireplace to cookstove, gas to electric lighting, etc.

Capt. George Denison, veteran of Cromwell's army and later commander of Connecticut troops in King Phillip's War, built a log lean-to, encircled with a palisade, and after the Indian wars,

his "mansion hous." It burned and the next year, 1717, his grandson, George III, built the present house on the same site.

The collections of family heirlooms are exceptionally interesting because they include so many unusual items. Capt. George's will in his own writing, his bullet mold, samples of his wife's needlework; a king-size mortar and pestle made by an Indian slave, home-made crow decoys and a jointed wooden doll with rabbit-fur hair; a camphorwood sea chest and Civil War carpetbag. In the kitchen the wooden dishes, pewter-ware and cooking utensils are notable.

Across the road 125 acres of the original Denison land-grant are maintained with miles of scientifically labeled Nature Trails and a new Museum by the Pequot-sepos Wildlife Sanctuary. Open free with guides.

*The Denison Society, Inc., Pequotsepos Ave., Mystic; phone 536-9248; open June to November, 1 to 5 p.m., daily except Mondays; 50c; children free.*





PHOTO BY LOUIS S. MARTEL

## No. 50 North Room, Samuel Buckingham House (1768), Mystic Seaport

No more fitting location could be found for a typical colonial dwelling than in the midst of Mystic Seaport Village, to which site it was transported by barge from Old Saybrook. Erected by Samuel Buckingham in 1768 and attached to a smaller ell, probably built around 1690 by Samuel's grandfather, the Rev. Thomas Buckingham, the house is an outstanding example of mid-18th century architecture.

Sturdily constructed, the house has two stories and attic, plastered walls and a huge central chimney which serves a fireplace in each room. The first floor north room, with its classic wallpaper, is furnished in the period of 1770 to 1790, with a fine Queen Ann desk, Spanish-leather chair, paintings of 17th century ships, pine table

and other period items, while in the dining room is a corner cupboard containing a collection of pewter, as well as table, chairs and accessories of the period. Canopy beds, pine bureaus and early chairs are among the furnishings of the bedrooms.

Most striking is the kitchen ell, built about 1690, completely restored, with great fireplace, pine sheathed walls, huge summer beam, leaded casement windows and other details, which with the furnishings, accurately portray a 17th century room. Here, it is alleged, took place the "battle of books," when Thomas Buckingham, as custodian of the library, refused to release it for removal to New Haven, when Yale Collegiate School was transferred to that town from its earlier site in Old Saybrook.

*Marine Historical Association, Route 27, Mystic; phone JE 6-2631; Seaport open daily 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; \$2, children thru 15, 50c.*





### No. 51 Leffingwell Inn (c 1675), Norwich

Colonial New England reflected with charm and fidelity:

Rescued from superhighway bulldozers, moved and restored, the Leffingwell Inn delights alike antiquarian experts and classes of school children. It is definitely different. "The last word in restoration: so beautifully presented and full of interest," says Henry F. DuPont of Winterthur, and visitors from every state and as far away as Sweden and China exclaim: "Most interesting house we've ever seen." "Terrific." "A really worthwhile stop!"

Leffingwell Inn has a threefold interest.

**History:** In 1701 Thomas Leffingwell was "granted liberty by the town to keep a publique house of entertainment for strangers" in his home which, during the Revolution, became local

headquarters for patriots. Thomas' grandson, Christopher, not only collected supplies for the Continental Army, but was a pioneering industrialist, establishing the first paper and knitting mills in Connecticut, as well as a pottery, dye house and chocolate mill.

**Architecture:** Connecticut colonists sometimes joined two small houses to make a mansion and then went on adding ells. The Inn evolved in this manner and its restoration reveals clearly these thrifty habits.

**Museum:** Unusually fascinating collections of pewter, silver, swords and clocks made by Norwich craftsmen; of kitchen, dairy and farm implements; of local Indian relics including a carved wooden succotash bowl; of rare furniture, such as the twin of the three-cornered presidential chair of Harvard.

*Society of the Founders of Norwich, Connecticut, Inc., at end of Exit 81 East from Connecticut Tpk., on Rts. 2 and 32; phone 889-9440; May 15-October 15, 10-12:30, 2-4:30, Sunday, 2-4:30, closed Monday; October 16-May 14, Saturday 1-4; or by appointment; 50c, children free.*





No. 52 Rockwell House (1818), Norwich

While not as old as some of the historic buildings of Norwich, the imposing gray stone Rockwell House, built in 1818 by Joseph Perkins, is one of particular interest because of the many fine items which are on display here. For many years this was the home of one of the city's leading physicians, Dr. John A. Rockwell, son-in-law of Joseph Perkins. Later, to preserve the house for future generations, his granddaughter, Mrs. Rockwell Cole, deeded it to Faith Trumbull Chapter, D. A. R. After some changes and improvements made with the approval of the donor, it is now maintained by that organization.

The east room, now the dining room, was an addition to the house, and the door leading to it from the hall was

the original back door. A porch was also a later addition, while Dr. Rockwell added a room at the back to be used by him as an office, with outside entrance. This room now contains a display of early kitchen utensils, tools and other items.

Generous contributions by members of the chapter and friends have been received. Noteworthy among the exhibits in the house are early American furniture, an exceptionally large Franklin stove, an Ebenezer Tracy Windsor chair, unusual china and glass, old wedding dresses and other costumes, early hat boxes, a trundle bed, rare crewel work, fans, hand embroidered infants' clothing and children's toys of fascination to members of much earlier generations.

*Faith Trumbull Chapter, D.A.R., 42 Rockwell St., Norwich; phone 887-8737; open Wednesdays, 2-5, during July and August; other times by appointment with resident curator.*





No. 53 Nathaniel Backus House (1750), Norwich

Nathaniel Backus, the grandson and great grandson of two William Backuses, who were founders of Norwich, built his home in 1750 on a site facing the well travelled highway, now lower Broadway, with its back overlooking the old swamp. Here the house stood for two hundred years, when it was moved to its present site on Rockwell Street.

The Backus family was not only prominent in Norwich, but their activities were closely connected with the Trumbulls in Lebanon with some of whom they shared church pews in the earliest meeting house in Norwich.

The house retains some of its original and interesting features, among which are the heavy front door, flanked

by pillars and rosettes, and its early staircase with round rail, hand carved corner newel posts and decorated treads.

Like the Rockwell House, next door, the Backus House is the property of Faith Trumbull Chapter, D. A. R., and is also maintained as a museum. Here are found furniture and works of art, rare old glass and china, ancient Chinese sewing table, rose jars, various chairs of historic connection, as well as a table used by John Trumbull, the artist, for mixing paints. Also there are two pastel portraits of the 1790's by Sarah Perkins, one of an unknown boy, the other of an unknown girl. The portraits were found in the attic of the Rockwell House.

*Faith Trumbull Chapter, D.A.R., 42 Rockwell St., Norwich; phone (in adjacent Rockwell House) 887-8737; open Wednesdays, 2-5, during July and August; other times by appointment with curator in Rockwell House.*





#### No. 54 Governor Jonathan Trumbull House (1735-40), Lebanon

Probably no other person in Connecticut did more for the cause of the American Revolution than Governor Jonathan Trumbull, the only colonial governor who supported American independence. His home, built by his father, Captain Joseph Trumbull, between 1735 and 1740, was moved a short distance to its present site in 1830. Besides conducting the affairs of the state, the war governor supplied men and great quantities of munitions and food for the army.

Noteworthy features of the house are the front entrance and the lower tier of front windows with pedimented heads and molded sills. Inside, the heart shaped penetrations of the shutters, the main stairway, the three chimneys converging into a single stack, and the panelling are of great interest. Recent restoration disclosed the location of a hidden staircase, believed to

be the one down which John Trumbull, son of Jonathan and noted painter, fell when a child, losing the sight of an eye. Another staircase led from the governor's office to a tunnel leading to the War Office.

The house is furnished with authentic antiques, all ante-dating 1830, many of which belonged to the Trumbull family.

The latter includes a Queen Ann chair, Hepplewhite chair, Chinese lacquer dispatch box, and china with a medallion in gray, of a bull with head turned to one side.

Among guests frequenting the house were Generals Washington, Knox, Putnam, Marquis de Lafayette, Count Rochambeau and Benjamin Franklin.

In 1954 the Wadsworth stable, a building of pure Grecian Palladian architecture, was moved from Hartford to the property.

*Connecticut Daughters of the American Revolution, second house north of Main St. and Colchester Rd., Lebanon; phone NI 2-7558; open 10-5, Tues., Wed., Fri., Sat., May 1 to Nov. 1; donations accepted.*





No. 55 Bedroom of the Hale Homestead (1776), Coventry

Nathan Hale has long been considered one of the country's outstanding heroes, and although he never lived in this landmark, his name is closely associated with it. He was born in an earlier house which once stood nearby, and his father, Deacon Richard Hale, was constructing his new house during the war. The family moved into it only about a month after Nathan was hanged as a spy by the British, September 22, 1776.

The homestead was one of the mansion houses of the area when it was built, although, according to accurate records, it was not all completed at one time, and the rear sections of the ell were added at later dates.

Since the acquisition of the house by the Antiquarian & Landmarks Society, many splendid gifts have been received, including many pieces that

were the property of the Hale family—furniture, portraits, a Burnap clock, china, pewter, tools, and other accessories, including an early fowling piece, Nathan Hale's boyhood gun. One of the rooms was used as a school, where Nathan's brother, David, taught the children of the neighborhood; another was the Judgment room, where Deacon Hale, and later, various sons, presided as justices of the peace. These rooms, together with the others, are appropriately furnished with period pieces. The curtains and bed furnishings are early, original home spun and handwoven materials.

Joanna Hale was a sister of Nathan. Her rare English pewter plates with her name inscribed on them, her lovely china, her cream ware vases, and some of her costumes are among the treasured heirlooms.

*Antiquarian & Landmarks Society of Connecticut, South St., accessible from Rts. 6 to 44A, Coventry; phone 742-6917; open May 15 to October 15, 1-5; 50c.*



# Other Buildings and Historic Displays

In addition to its Historic Houses, Connecticut has a number of other buildings open to the public which are noteworthy in themselves, or where there are varied types of displays of national, state and local interest. The following list includes many of these.

Days and hours when open are subject to change.

Abbreviations: O., open. O. appt., open by appointment. Cl., closed. Hol., holidays.

- BRANFORD: *Blackstone Memorial Library*, Main St. Indian artifacts, local stones. O. week days, 9-5; cl. hol.
- BRIDGEPORT: *Barnum Museum* (1893), 804 Main St. Planned by P. T. Barnum. O. Mon. thru Fri., 2-5; Jul. & Aug., 2-4; cl. hol.; mornings by appt.  
*Burroughs Library*, 925 Broad St. Barnum circus collection. O. daily 9 a.m. to 9:15 p.m.; Sat. to 1 p.m.
- BROOKFIELD CENTER: *Joyce Memorial Library*. O. Tues., Sat., 2-5.
- CHESHIRE: *Cheshire Hist. Soc. Museum*, 100 Main St. O. Sun., 2-5.
- CLINTON: *William Stanton Andrews Memorial Town Hall*. Clinton Hist. Soc. collection. O. Wed., 2-4.  
*Cow Hill Red Schoolhouse* (1800), Cow Hill Rd. Cow Hill Red Schoolhouse Assn. Occasionally O.
- COLCHESTER: *Bacon Academy* (1803), still conducted as a school.
- COLUMBIA: *Moor's Indian Charity School*, on the Green, Rts. 6A & 87. Birthplace of Dartmouth College. O. school days or appt.
- CROMWELL: *Belden Library*, 346 Main St. O. Mon., Wed., Fri., 2:30-4:30; 7-9 p.m.
- DARIEN: *Darien Hist. Soc.*, 35 LeRoy Ave. O. Wed., 10-12, 2-4.
- DURHAM: *Public Library*. Durham Hist. Soc. collection. O. Wed., 3-5, 7-9; Sat., 2-5.
- EAST GRANBY: *Newgate Prison*. Early copper mine, first colonial & state prison. O. Apr. 1-Dec. 1, 1-5; 50c.
- EAST HADDAM: *Goodspeed Opera House* (1876), Rt. 82. Restored Victorian theatre. O. June 15 to Oct.
- Nathan Hale Schoolhouse*, Rt. 149. Hale taught here, 1773-74. Sons of the Revolution. O. Appt.
- EAST HARTFORD: *Public Library*, 840 Main St. O. Mon. thru Fri., 10-8:30; Sat., 2-6.
- EAST HAVEN: *Branford Electric Railway*, near E. Haven Green. Trolley museum. O. July 1 thru Labor Day, 10-6; balance of year, weekends, 10-6.
- ESSEX: *Hill Academy* (1831), Prospect St. Early school. Essex Hist. Soc. O. appt.  
*Griswold Inn* (1776), Main St. Maritime paintings, etc.
- FARMINGTON: *The Village Library*, Farmington Ave. & High St. Local publications. O. Mon., Tues., Thurs., 10-5; Wed., Fri., 2-9; Sat., 10-1.
- FAIRFIELD: *Fairfield Hist. Soc.*, 636 Old Post Rd. O. Tues. thru Fri., 9-5; Sat., 10-4.  
*Academy* (c. 1804), Old Post Rd. Early school, Eunice Dennie Chapt., D.A.R. O. appt.
- GLASTONBURY: *Former Town Hall*, Main & Hubbard Sts. Hist. Soc. of Glastonbury. O. 1st Sat. each month & every Thurs., May 2-Oct. 11, 2-4, or appt.
- GOSHEN: *Academy* (1809), Rt. 63. Early school. Goshen Hist. Soc. O. during summer, Tues., Sat., 2-5, or appt.
- GREENWICH: *Bruce Museum*, Bruce Park. Natural hist., some Indian & colonial displays. O. Mon. thru Fri., 10-5; Sun., 2-5.
- GROTON: *Fort Griswold Museum*, State Park. Site of Revolutionary War Battle. O. June 15-Sept. 15; 2:30-5.  
*Submarine Library*, Thames St. Maritime exhibits. General Dynamics Corp., Electric Boat Div. O. week days, 10-4; Sat., May thru Sept. Cl. hol.



HADLYME: *Gillette Castle* (1914), Rt. 82. State Park. Built by the actor, William Gillette. O. May 30-Oct. 12, 11-5; 30c.

HARWINTON: *Hungerford Library*. O. Mon. & Tues., 7-8:30; Fri., 2:30-5 & appt.

HARTFORD: *Old Hartford State House*, Main & State Sts. Designed by Bulfinch. State Capitol 1796-1879. Conn. Hist. Soc. O. Tues. thru Sat., 12-4; 50c, children under 15, 10c.

*State Capitol* (1879), Capitol Ave. *State Library*, Capitol Ave. State archives, exhibits. O. Mon. thru Fri., 8:30-5; Sat. (ex. hol. week ends), 9-1.

*Wadsworth Atheneum* (1842), 25 Atheneum Sq. & Main St. Art, early furniture. O. Tues. thru Fri., 10-5; Sat., 9-5; Sun. & hol., 1:30-5:30.

*Connecticut Hist. Soc.*, 1 Elizabeth St. Permanent & changing displays. O. ex. Sun., 9:30-5:30; cl. Sat. noon during June, Jul. & Aug.

LEBANON: *Revolutionary War Office*, Town Green. Conn. Soc. S.A.R. O. Sat. afternoons, May 30 to Oct.

LITCHFIELD: *Litchfield Hist. Soc. Museum*, rear Public Library. O. June thru Sept., Tues. thru Sat., 2:30-5:30; balance of year. Thurs., 11-1, 2:30-5:30.

MADISON: *Lee Academy* (1821), on the Green. Early school. Madison Hist. Soc. O. appt. during summer.

MANSFIELD: *Old Eagleville School*, Rt. 32 & So. Eagleville Rd., in Eagleville. Mansfield Hist. Soc. O. May 30 & Thurs. thru Sept., 2-5.

MIDDLETOWN: *Davidson Art Center*, High St. Built by Richard Alsop IV, early 19th century. Wesleyan U. O. Mon. thru Fri., 8-5; in winter also O. Sat., 8-12; Sun., 2-4.

MYSTIC: *Mystic Seaport*, Rt. 27. Marine Hist. Assn. A 19th century coastal village; whaling ship, other vessels, marine museum, planetarium, etc. O. daily, 9-5; \$2; children 6 thru 15, 50c.

NAUGATUCK: *Naugatuck Savings Bank*, 251 Church St. Naugatuck Hist. Soc. exhibit. O. 9-3 or appt.

NEW BRITAIN: *Museum of American Art*, 56 Lexington Ave. O. ex. Mon. & hol., 2-5:30.

NEW CANAAN: *Little Red Schoolhouse* (1865), Carter St., 3 mi. N. Exit 38, Merritt Prkwy. Fully restored typical country school. Friends of Little Red Schoolhouse, Inc. O. Appt. & week end afternoons, ex. winter.

NEW HAVEN: *Yale Art Gallery*, 1111 Chapel St. Paintings, Mabel Brady Garvan Collection of furniture, etc. O. Tues. thru Sat., 10-5; Sun., 2-5.

*Peabody Museum of Natural History*, Whitney Ave. O. 9-5 (Nov. 1-Mar. 1, 9-4:30); Sun. & hol., 2-4:30.

*New Haven Colony Hist. Soc.*, 114 Whitney Ave. O. Mon. thru Fri., 9-12, 1-5; museum only also O. Sun. & hol., 2-5.

*Winchester Gun Museum*, Winchester Ave. & Munson St. Firearms collection. Olin Mathieson Chemical Corp. O. Mon. thru Sat., ex. hol., 9-4.

*John Slade Ely House*, 51 Trumbull St. Contemporary Art Club exhibitions, etc.

*Medical Historical Library*, Yale University, Cedar St. Medical exhibitions.

NEW LONDON: *Nathan Hale Schoolhouse*, north of Bulkeley Sq. Hale taught here 1775, Conn. S.A.R. O. appt.

*Lyman Allyn Museum*, 100 Mohegan Ave. O. ex. Mon., 1-5; Sun., 2-5.

*Court House* (1784), head of State St. Fine Georgian colonial architecture. *Old Mill*, Main St. Site of Winthrop's Mill of 1650.

NEWTOWN: *Cyrenius H. Booth Library*, Main St. O. Mon. thru Fri., 1-8; Sat., 10-8; Sun., 3-5.

NORFOLK: *Academy* (1840), on the Green. Norfolk Hist. Soc. O. Jul. 4 to Sept. 15, Wed. & Sat., 10:30-5:30.

NORTH STONINGTON: *Clarks Falls Grist Mill*. (1796). Water-driven mill, still grinding grain. O. week ends.

NORWICH: *Slater Hall & Museum* (1886), 108 Crescent St. Art, early furniture. O. Sept. 8 to May 31, Mon. thru Fri., 10-4; Sun., 2-5.



- PROSPECT: *Prospect Hist. Soc. Bldg.* (c. 1860). Former school, then Town Hall, Center St., just W. of Rts. 68 & 69. O. 1st Mon. of month, 8-10 p.m., or appt.
- REDDING: *Putnam Memorial State Park*, Junction Rts. 58 & 107. Site of Revolutionary War encampment. Museum O. May 30 to fall, 8 to 1/2 hour after sunset. *Mark Twain Library*, Rt. 53, West Redding. Collection of Mark Twain's work; other exhibits. O. Mon. thru Sat., 3-6.
- RIDGEFIELD: *Library & Ridgefield Hist. Soc.*, 151 Main St. O. daily ex. Sun. & hol., 10-5.  
*Stonehenge Inn* (1823), Rt. 7. Antique clocks.
- SALISBURY: *Scoville Memorial Library*. First library in U. S. to receive support from municipal taxes; one of first libraries for children. O. Tues. thru Fri., 2-5; Sat., 10:30-12, 2-5.  
*Academy* (1834); Circuit Court House.
- SOMERS: *Town Hall*. O. Mon. thru Fri., 8:30-5:30; 7:30-9 p.m.
- SOUTHINGTON: *Powers Auto Museum*, Rt. 10. Antique cars. O. 12-9; 50c.
- STONINGTON: *Lighthouse* (1843), Water St. Stonington Hist. Soc. O. daily ex. Mon., May to Oct., 11-4:30; 50c. children under 12, 25c.  
*Old Stone Bank*, Cannon Sq. Stonington Hist. Soc. Displays, old portraits, unique 16 star & 16 stripe U. S. flag. O. banking hours.
- THOMPSON: *Vernon Styles Inn*, Rts. 193 & 200. Operating since 1814.
- UNCASVILLE: *Tantaquidgeon Lodge*, Old Norwich Rd. Indian material. O. summer.
- WAREHOUSE POINT: *Conn. Electric Railway Trolley Museum*, Rt. 191. O. Sun., Palm Sun. to Dec., 1:30 to dusk.
- WASHINGTON: *Gunn Memorial Library*, near the Green. Hist. museum. O. Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri., 2-5; Sat., 9-12, 2-5.
- WATERBURY: *Mattatuck Hist. Soc. Museum and Junior Museum*, 119 W. Main St. Historic & industrial displays. O. Tues. thru Sat., 10-5; Sun., 2-5.
- WATERFORD: *Harkness Memorial State Park*, Great Neck Rd. Italian style mansion; Rex Brasher bird painting collection. O. May 30-Oct. 12, 10-6; 50c, children 25c.
- WATERTOWN: *Public Library*, 470 Main St. Curtiss Collection Room O. Wed., 3-5, 7-8, and appt.
- WEST HARTLAND: *Community House*. Hartland Hist. Soc. O. in summer; call at post office, next door, for information concerning admission.
- WETHERSFIELD: *Academy* (1801), 150 Main St. Wethersfield Hist. Soc. museum. O. Tues., Thurs., Sat., 1:30-4:30; 25c, children 10c.
- WINDHAM: *Free Library* (1832), Windham Green. Figure of Bacchus carved by British prisoners in Revolutionary War; Ralph Earl painting. O. Wed., Sept. to May, 2-5; May to Sept., 7-9.  
*Dr. Hunt Office* (c. 1790), Town Green. Windham Library Assn. O. appt.
- WOLCOTT: *Woodtick Stone Schoolhouse*, Nichols Rd. Wolcott Hist. Soc.
- WOODBURY: *Curtis House*. Operating as an inn since 1754.
- WOODSTOCK: *Quasset School* (1748). One of oldest schoolhouses. O. school days by registering with Elementary School principal; in summer by registering with custodian, Woodstock Elementary & Junior High School.







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